

Express Mail Label No. EL209599882US  
U.S. National Phase Entry of PCT/EP00/09882  
"Interface Module for a Local Data Network"  
Filed: 18 January 2002  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

3. (Amended) The interface module according to claim 1, wherein the alloy has the composition  $Co_a(Fe_{1-c}Mn_c)_bNi_dM_eSi_xB_yC_z$ , with M indicating one or more elements from the group Nb, Mo, Ta, Cr, W, Ge, and/or P and  $a+b+d+e+x+y+z = 100$ , with

Co            a = 40 - 82 at%

Fe+Mn      b = 3 - 10 at%

Mn/Fe      c = 0 - 1

Ni            d = 0 - 30 at%

M            e = 0 - 5 at%

Si            x = 0 - 17 at%

B            y = 8 - 26 at%

C            z = 0 - 3 at%

and  $15 \text{ at\%} < e+x+y+z < 30 \text{ at\%}$ .

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4. (Amended) The interface module according to claim 3, wherein the following relationships apply:

Co            a = 55 - 72 at%

Mn/Fe      c = 0 - 0.5

Ni            d = 0 - 20 at%

M            e = 0 - 3 at%

B            y = 8 - 20 at%

Si            x = 1 - 18 at%

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and  $20 \text{ at\%} < e+x+y+z < 30 \text{ at\%}$ .

5. (Amended) The interface module according to claim 1, wherein the alloy has the composition  $\text{Fe}_x\text{Cu}_y\text{M}_z\text{Si}_v\text{B}_w$ , with M indicating an element from the group Nb, W, Ta, Zr, Hf, Ti, Mo, or a combination of these and  $x + y + z + v + w = 100\%$ , with

Fe  $x = 100\% - y - z - v - w$

Cu  $y = 0.5 - 2 \text{ at\%}$

M  $z = 1 - 6 \text{ at\%}$

Si  $v = 6.5 - 18 \text{ at\%}$

B  $w = 5 - 14 \text{ at\%}$

with  $v + w > 18 \text{ at\%}$ .

6. (Amended) The interface module according to claim 5, wherein the following relationships apply:

Cu  $y = 1 \text{ at\%}$

M  $z = 2 - 4 \text{ at\%}$

Si  $v = 14 - 17 \text{ at\%}$ ,

with  $v + w = 20 \text{ to } 24 \text{ at\%}$ .

7. (Amended) The interface module according to claim 1, wherein the alloy has the composition  $\text{Fe}_x\text{Zr}_y\text{Nb}_z\text{B}_v\text{Cu}_w$ , with  $x + y + z + v + w = 100 \text{ at\%}$ , with

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Fe         $x = 100 \text{ at\%} - y - z - v - w$

Zr         $y = 2 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

Nb         $z = 2 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

B         $v = 5 - 9 \text{ at\%}$

Cu         $w = 0.5 - 1.5 \text{ at\%}$

*AS*  
with  $y + z > 5 \text{ at\%}$  and  $y + z + v > 11 \text{ at\%}$ .

8. (Amended) The interface module according to claim 7, wherein the following relationships apply:

Fe         $x = 83 - 86 \text{ at\%}$

Zr         $y = 3 - 4 \text{ at\%}$

Nb         $z = 3 - 4 \text{ at\%}$

Cu         $w = 1 \text{ at\%}$

with  $y + z > 7 \text{ at\%}$  and  $y + z + v > 12 \text{ to } 16 \text{ at\%}$ .

9. (Amended) The interface module according to claim 1, wherein the alloy has the composition  $\text{Fe}_x\text{M}_y\text{B}_z\text{Cu}_w$ , with M indicating an element from the group Zr, Hf, Nb and  $x + y + z + w = 100 \text{ at\%}$ , with

Fe         $x = 100 \text{ at\%} - y - z - w$

M         $y = 6 - 8 \text{ at\%}$

B         $z = 3 - 9 \text{ at\%}$

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Cu        w = 0 - 1.5 at%.

10. (Amended)        The interface module according to claim 9, wherein the following relationships apply:

Fe        x = 83 - 91 at%

M        y = 7 at%.

11. (Amended)        The interface module according to claim 1, wherein the alloy has the composition  $(Fe_{0.98}Co_{0.02})_{90-x}Zr_7B_{2+x}Cu_1$ , with  $x = 0 - 3$  at%, with the residual alloy component Co able to be replaced by Ni with appropriate equalization.

12. (Amended)        The interface module according to claim 11, wherein  $x = 0$ .

13. (New)        The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition  $Co_a(Fe_{1-c}Mn_c)_bNi_dM_eSi_xB_yC_z$ , with M indicating one or more elements from the group Nb, Mo, Ta, Cr, W, Ge, and/or P and  $a+b+d+e+x+y+z = 100$ , with

Co        a = 40 - 82 at%

Fe+Mn    b = 3 - 10 at%

Mn/Fe    c = 0 - 1

Ni        d = 0 - 30 at%

M        e = 0 - 5 at%

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Si         $x = 0 - 17 \text{ at\%}$

B         $y = 8 - 26 \text{ at\%}$

C         $z = 0 - 3 \text{ at\%}$

and  $15 \text{ at\%} < e + x + y + z < 30 \text{ at\%}$ .

14. (New)    The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition  $\text{Fe}_x\text{Cu}_y\text{M}_z\text{Si}_v\text{B}_w$ , with M indicating an element from the group Nb, W, Ta, Zr, Hf, Ti, Mo, or a combination of these and  $x + y + z + v + w = 100\%$ , with

Fe         $x = 100\% - y - z - v - w$

Cu         $y = 0.5 - 2 \text{ at\%}$

M         $z = 1 - 6 \text{ at\%}$

Si         $v = 6.5 - 18 \text{ at\%}$

B         $w = 5 - 14 \text{ at\%}$

with  $v + w > 18 \text{ at\%}$ .

15. (New)    The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition  $\text{Fe}_x\text{Zr}_y\text{Nb}_z\text{B}_v\text{Cu}_w$ , with  $x + y + z + v + w = 100 \text{ at\%}$ , with

Fe         $x = 100 \text{ at\%} - y - z - v - w$

Zr         $y = 2 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

Nb         $z = 2 - 5 \text{ at\%}$

B         $v = 5 - 9 \text{ at\%}$

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Cu         $w = 0.5 - 1.5$  at%

with  $y + z > 5$  at% and  $y + z + v > 11$  at%.

16. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition  $Fe_xM_yB_zCu_w$ , with M indicating an element from the group Zr, Hf, Nb and  $x + y + z + w = 100$  at%, with

Fe         $x = 100$  at% -  $y - z - w$

M         $y = 6 - 8$  at%

B         $z = 3 - 9$  at%

Cu         $w = 0 - 1.5$  at%.

17. (New) The interface module according to claim 2, wherein the alloy has the composition  $(Fe_{0.98}Co_{0.02})_{90-x}Zr_7B_{2+x}Cu_1$ , with  $x = 0 - 3$  at%, with the residual alloy component Co able to be replaced by Ni with appropriate equalization.

Respectfully submitted



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